

The background of the slide is a textured yellow surface. Overlaid on this is a white silhouette of a world map, showing the continents. The map is centered, with North and South America on the left, Europe and Africa in the middle, and Asia and Australia on the right.

TRANSACTIONAL FEMINIST LITERARY CRITICISM: LOUDER VOICES AND CLEARER VISIONS

A PPT by Luis Salazar

FEMINIST READINGS: ACTS OF ASSERTION AND REVOLT

This comes as a response to new ideologies in literary criticism:

- The death of the author
- Active readers
- A transaction
- The feminist reader needs to be resisting

- Robyn R. Warhol & Diane Price Herndl:
 - The feminist reader can be male or female as long as they commit to breaking the pattern of female oppression and its perpetuation in texts
- Elaine Showalter, the 3 phases of modern women's literary development:
 - Femininity is linked to male tradition
 - Feminism is linked to a fight for rights
 - Female is linked to rediscovery of women's texts
- However, these descriptions may still overlap and show up in current analysis

- Wolfgang Iser: the reader is divided
- Fetterley: in female readers the division happens because canonical texts place women in the margins
- Geraldine Heng: finding a balance between resisting and acquiescing to what is read
- Lynne Pearce & Susan Sontag: reading should not be intellectual, but engaging & pleasurable

WRITING FROM THE MARGINS

- The margins -> all of the Others
 - Jewish groups, Caribbean groups, Arab Groups, Native Americans, Latinos, African Americans and Asian Americans
- This comes from New Historicism
 - Telling the stories of those whose voices have not been heard
 - Concerned with understanding subject positions and the inter-relatedness of the groups that form societies
 - It is based on cultural diversity, including gender, race, class, and ethnic elements

- Cultural Studies:
 - No distinct methodology, it draws from theories of other disciplines to delve into texts
 - It deals with gender, sexuality, nationhood and national identity, colonialism and post-colonialism, race and ethnicity
- Post-Colonialism:
 - The issue of colonialism and its consequences
 - Edward Said, Homi Bhabba and Gayatri Spivak

FEMALE AFRICAN AMERICAN “OTHERS”: BREAKING THROUGH BARRIERS

- Lorraine Bethel affirms that they are “in the midst of racial/sexual oppression”
 - Slavery
 - Segregation
 - Jim Crow Laws
- Alice Walker: womanist, not a black feminist
- Carolyn Denard: a feminism concerned with their own ethnic tradition
- Barbara Christian: theory uses elitist language that limits its reach
- bell hooks: considers postmodernist theory useful for reformulating notions of identity